(*i*) This is the general policy of the Government where the factors of the locality are favourable and is given effect to in the intensive programme of afforestation that is being pursued from year to year subject to the limitation of funds, as may be seen from the annual Administration reports of the Department.

AFFORESTATION AS PREVENTIVE TO FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

267. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total extent of *poramboke* land lying waste on the range of hills lying from east-west almost through the middle of Talappalli Taluk from Machad to Vellattanjoor ;

(*b*) whether the member for Kunnamkulam suggested the idea of growing forests on these waste lands to regulate the flow of water in Keecheri River by a resolution in the last Council;

(*c*) whether the Irrigation Board, Trichur group, adopted this in their report of the investigation for the averting of the floods and droughts in the paddy-fields of Keecheri ;

(*d*) what decision the Government has arrived at in this important problem ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* (*a*) 1850·72¾ acres.

(*b*) Yes, in respect of waste lands lying between Vadakkancheri and Erumapetty.

(*c*) There was no definite recommendation from the Irrigation Board regarding this matter.

(*d*) This question does not arise in view of the answer given to sub-division (*c*) above.

RAM MOHAN PALACE—ELECTRIFICATION—QUALIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTOR

268. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will the Government be pleased to state whether the contractor entrusted with the electrification of the Ram Mohan Palace has been exempted from possessing the necessary qualifications required by the rules

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